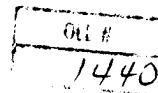


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E.O. 12356 DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, RP, US
 SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS

REF: (A) MANILA 9885 (B) MANILA 8846

1. (LOU) **CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ OFFICE SAYS THAT SOLARZ IS NOT PLANNING A VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES IN THE MAY 10-16 PERIOD AS INDICATED REFTEL A. SOLARZ MAY INCLUDE A PHILIPPINE STOP TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEMINAR IN THE PHILIPPINES DURING LAST WEEK OF JUNE ON HIS RETURN FROM AUSTRALIA, IF HE MAKES THAT TRIP.**

2. (LOU) WE ARE UNAWARE OF ACCEPTANCE BY OTHER COUNTRIES OF OBSERVER INVITATION EXCEPT FOR EMBASSY MANILA'S REPORT ON CANADIANS AND WEST GERMANS. (REF B)

3. (C) FYI, CONG. SOLARZ TOLD AMB. BOSWORTH APRIL 11 THAT HE IS INCLINED TO RECOMMEND THAT HOUSE NOT SEND AN OBSERVER DELEGATION FOR MAY 14 ELECTIONS. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF PROS AND CONS WITH AMB. BOSWORTH, SOLARZ AGREED THAT IT MAKES SENSE TO WAIT UNTIL ABOUT MAY 1 TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION.

4. (C) WE UNDERSTAND FROM SOLARZ STAFF THAT LAUREL HAS MADE A STRONG CASE WITH SOLARZ FOR CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVERS, ARGUING THAT WITH CONGRESSIONAL PRESENCE CHANCES OF ELECTORAL FRAUD AND RELATED VIOLENCE WILL DIMINISH. SHULTZ
 END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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